

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing paraffin from a tissue embedding mold, comprising steps of:

- (a) placing the tissue embedding mold in a mold receiving chamber of a cleaning vessel;
- (b) introducing an aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel in an amount to cover the tissue embedding mold;
- (c) heating the aqueous cleaning solution to at least the melting point of the paraffin contained on the tissue embedding mold;
- (d) maintaining the tissue embedding mold in the heated aqueous cleaning solution for a selected period of time wherein at least a portion of the paraffin on the tissue embedding mold melts from the tissue embedding mold to produce a paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution;
- (e) ~~passing~~ removing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel; [[and]]
- (f) repeating steps (b) - (e) until the tissue embedding mold is substantially free of paraffin;
- (g) introducing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution removed from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel into a tank provided with a plurality of baffles;

- (h) heating a lower end of the baffles to a temperature at least the melting point of the paraffin;
- (i) maintaining an upper end of the baffles at a temperature below the melting point of the paraffin;
- (j) passing the paraffin containing aqueous solution by the upper ends of the baffles where the paraffin in the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution solidifies on the upper ends of the baffles thereby separating the paraffin from the paraffin containing solution to produce a treated aqueous cleaning solution; and
- (k) removing the treated aqueous cleaning solution from the tank.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
agitating the aqueous cleaning solution to facilitate removal of paraffin from the
tissue embedding mold.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the aqueous cleaning solution is
agitated by heating the aqueous cleaning solution to at least the boiling point of the
aqueous cleaning solution.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising step of:
introducing a surfactant to the aqueous cleaning solution prior to introducing the
aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning
vessel.

5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 further comprising step of:
passing the treated aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of
the cleaning vessel.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 further comprising the step
of removing the paraffin from the upper ends of the baffles.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for removing paraffin from a tissue
embedding mold, comprising steps of:
- (a) placing the tissue embedding mold in a mold receiving chamber of a cleaning
vessel;
 - (b) introducing a paraffin dissolving solvent into the mold receiving chamber of
the cleaning vessel in an amount to cover the tissue embedding mold;
 - (c) maintaining the tissue embedding mold in the paraffin dissolving solvent for
a selected period of time wherein at least a portion of the paraffin on the
tissue embedding mold dissolves from the tissue embedding mold to
produce a paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent;
 - (d) ~~passing~~ removing the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent from the
mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel; and

- (e) repeating steps (b) - (d) until the tissue embedding mold is substantially free of paraffin;
- (f) introducing the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent removed from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel into a tank provided with a plurality of baffles;
- (g) heating a lower end of the baffles to a temperature at least the melting point of the paraffin;
- (h) maintaining an upper end of the baffles at a temperature below the melting point of the paraffin;
- (i) passing the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent by the upper ends of the baffles where the paraffin in the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent solidifies on the upper ends of the baffles thereby separating the paraffin from the paraffin containing paraffin dissolving solvent to produce a treated paraffin dissolving solvent solution; and
- (j) removing the treated paraffin dissolving solvent solution from the tank.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising:
heating the paraffin dissolving solvent to at least the melting point of the paraffin contained on the tissue embedding mold.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:
agitating the paraffin dissolving solvent to facilitate removal of paraffin from the tissue embedding mold.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the paraffin dissolving solvent is agitated by heating the paraffin dissolving solvent to at least the boiling point of the paraffin dissolving solvent.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising step of:
introducing a surfactant to the paraffin dissolving solvent prior to introducing the
paraffin dissolving solvent into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning
vessel.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[13]] 8 further comprising step
of:
passing the treated paraffin dissolving solvent solution into the mold receiving
chamber of the cleaning vessel.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[13]] 8 further comprising the step
of removing the paraffin from the upper ends of the baffles.